ſaid to be *amphiſbæna*, but do move forward only by the head, which is fairly diſtinguiſhable from the tail by a notable blackneſs. 4 That the three, I took out of the body of one Beetle, were all of a dark hair-colour with whitiſh bellies, ſomewhat thicker then hoggs briſtles; but I took out of the body of another beetle one that was much thicker than the reſt; much lighter coloured; and by meaſure juſt five Inches and a half long; whereas all the reſt did not exceed three inches three quarters.

An Extract of a Letter, written March 5. 1672 *by Dr.* Thomas Cornelio, *a* Neapolitan *Philoſopher and Phyſician, to* John Dodington *Eſquire, his* Majeſties *Reſident at* Venice; *concerning ſome Obſervations made of perſons pretending to be ſtung by* Tarantula's: *Engliſh'd out of the Italian.*

SIR

NOw the time approaches, that I may ſend you ſome *Tarantulas*. Mean while I ſhall not omit to impart unto you, what was related to me, a few daies ſince, by a judicious and unprejudicate perſon, which is; That being in the Country of *Otranto* (where thoſe Inſects are in great numbers,) there was a man, who thinking himſelf ſtung by a *Tarantula*, ſhew'd in his neck a ſmall ſpeck, about which in a very ſhort time there aroſe ſome pimples full of a ſerous humour, and that, in a few hours after, that poor man was ſorely afflicted with very violent ſymptoms, as *Syncope's*, very great agitations, giddines of the head, and vomit; but that without any inclination at all to dance, and without all deſire of having any muſical inſtruments, he miſerably dyed within two daies.

The ſame perſon affirm'd to me, that all thoſe that think themſelves bitten by *Tarantula's*, (except ſuch, as for ſome ends fain themſelves to be ſo,) are for the moſt part young wanton girles, (whom the Italian writer calls *Dolci di ſale*,) who by ſome part cular indiſpoſition falling into this melancholly madneſs, perſwade themſelves according to the vulgar prejudice, to have been ſtung by a *Tarantula*. And I remember to have obſerved in *Calabria* ſome women, who ſeiſed on by ſome ſuch accidents were counted to be poſſeſs'd with the Divel; it being the common belief in that Province, that the greateſt part of the evils, which afflict man-kind, proceeds from evil Spirits.

This brings to my mind a terrible evil, which often enough

is obſerv'd in *Calabria*, and is call'd in their language *Coccio malegno*. It ariſeth on the ſurface of the body, in the form of a ſmall ſpeck, of the bignes of a lupin. It cauſeth ſome pain, and if it grow not ſoon red thereupon, it in a very ſhort time certainly kills. 'Tis the common opinion of thoſe people, that ſuch a diſtemper befals thoſe only, that have eaten fleſh of Animals dead of themſelves: which opinion I can from experience affirm to be falſe. So it frequently falls out, that of many ſtrang effects, we daily meet with, the true cauſe not being known, ſuch an one is aſſigned, which is grounded upon ſome vulgar prejudice. And of this kind I eſteem to be the vulgar belief of the cauſe of that diſtemper, which appears in thoſe that think themſelves ſtung by *Tarantulas*.

But why ſhould not we rather think, that that diſtemper is cauſed by an inward diſpoſition, like that vvhich in ſome places of *Germany* is vvont to produce that evil, vvhich they call *Chorea Sti Viti*, St. Vite's dance. But of this I hope I ſhall ſoon be able to vvrite my thoughts more fully, vvhich vvill, I think, be ſufficient to refute that fable of the *Tarantula*.

An Account of the Aponenſian Baths *near* Padua; *communicated by the forementionʼd Inquiſitive Gentleman*, *Mr.* Dodington, *in a Letter written to the Publiſher from* Venice March 18. 1672.

SIR,

IN the Obſervations and Hiſtory of Nature poſſibly this may not be unvvorthy the notice. Five miles from *Padua* are the vvaters, call'd *Aponenſia*, from a tovvn called *Aponum*, famous in antiquity, and among others frequently mention'd by *Livy*. vvill not doubt, but that Sr. I. F. and D B. two worthy members of the *R. Society* and who lived long in *Padova*, have inform'd themſelves moſt exactly of what ever I ſhall be able to ſay on this Subject; however I do not ſcruple to give you a ſhort relation of it.

The waters are actually very hot. Secondly, they are ſtinking. Thirdly, they yield a great deal of very fine ſalt; of which the natives ſerve themſelves in their ordinary occaſions. This ſalt is the thing, I think moſt conſiderable there. It is gather'd in this manner: The Natives, after Sun ſet, ſtirr peices of wood in the water, and preſently the Salt ſticks to them, and comes off in ſmall flakes, exceeding white, and very ſalt. This never looſes its ſavour. The people there, with the ſame water uſe to waſh the